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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 9 March 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter addressed to you by the Israeli Representative to the United Nations, dated 6 March 2001 (A/55/823-S/2001/197), and its attachment, the exchanged letters of mutual recognition signed by Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin in September of 1993. I refer as well to other previous letters by the representative of Israel, which contained similar accusations levelled at the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian leadership.

The crux of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process is indeed the mutual recognition between the two sides and the agreement to implement Security Council resolution 242 (1967) upon conclusion of a transitional period of five years. However, in spite of the achievements of the peace process, the Israeli side has over the years adopted many policies undermining the process and its crux as well as its successful conclusion. The new Israeli Government, even after the end of the transitional period and it extensions, is calling for yet another interim agreement, thus attempting to escape implementation of resolution 242 and abandon existing agreements altogether.

With regard to the ongoing Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people, which began on 28 September 2000, Israeli accusations are indeed preposterous. It is the Israeli occupying army and the Israeli settlers who are killing and wounding Palestinian civilians and who are effectively and severely punishing the entire Palestinian population under occupation, using the most sophisticated military machinery. Until now, we have nevertheless taken Israeli accusations as attempts to divert attention from reality and to evade responsibility, albeit partially. However, we believe that the increasing intensity of those accusations, including the above-mentioned letter, might indicate Israeli preparation for even worse and much more dangerous actions.

Several hostile Israeli statements allude to such a possibility as well, including statements by the Chief of Staff of the Israeli occupying army, Lt. General Shaul

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Mofaz, who bears special responsibility for the illegal actions of the Israeli occupying forces, and some ministers in the new Israeli Government. For example, on 7 March 2001, the Israeli Public Security minister, Uzi Landau, stated that it was "not enough to build defensive walls, we must take the battle into the adversary's camp". Further, Minister Ze'evi, in an article in the Ma'ariv newspaper on 4 March 2001, affirmed that he and his movement called for the transfer of Palestinians as a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In defending his position, he claimed that other historic Israeli leaders had supported transfer and that some of them had even carried it out in 1948.

We are sharing our serious concerns in this regard with the international community so that it is forewarned and remains vigilant in order to contribute to the prevention of potentially worse Israeli positions and actions against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership.

In the meanwhile, the bloody Israeli military campaign against our people continues. Today, Israeli settlers shot a Palestinian shepherd, who is now in critical condition, claiming that he exhibited a "threatening posture". I also wish to refer to previous letters to you on the matter, dated from 29 September 2000 to 2 March 2001 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2000/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2000/175; and A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189). Since my last letter to you on 2 March, five more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, bringing the total number of Palestinian martyrs to 371 persons. (The names of the five martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter.) Many more have also been injured, including 20 wounded just today.

At the same time, in addition to the closure being imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, since 7 March the Israeli occupying forces have isolated Bir Zeit University and the surrounding area in the West Bank, which is home to 70,000 individuals. Such closures, curfews and measures of isolation continue to devastate the already difficult socio-economic conditions of the entire Palestinian territory.

We repeat our urgent call for the provision of protection for the Palestinian civilians and the establishment of the United Nations observer force in this regard.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as documents of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 9 March 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli security forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem (Saturday, 3 March 2001 through Monday, 5 March 2001)

Saturday, 3 March 2001

1. Aida Dawoud Feteha
2. Baher Shafeek Odeh
3. Ahmed Mohammed Hassan Allan

Sunday, 4 March 2001

Ra'ed Shehdah Al-Halees

Monday, 5 March 2001

Osama Ibrahim Naghnaghiah